

CONSERVATION Connection News

Up and Coming

City of Bend is partnering with the OSU Master gardeners to provide a series of educational workshops in June for homeowners. All workshops are free. See upcoming workshop opportunities on back.

Tune it Up, Slow it Down

Spring Startups- looks like the warm weather has arrived and so it's time to offer the landscape a drink. In the past few years, the number of customer connections in Bend has grown and correspondingly so has water demand. Conservation efforts city wide are aimed at reducing peak demand during the irrigation season, and with irrigation accounting for 60% of water use in Bend during the summer months, this is a good place to focus on making changes. EPA WaterSense reports nearly 55% of water used for irrigation is wasted due to environmental factors and system efficiency issues. This is why it is so vital to convey to our water customers the importance of proper irrigation installation and maintenance. Irrigation systems are mechanically ever-changing due to the nature of their environment, so they must be attended to

and invested in proactively.

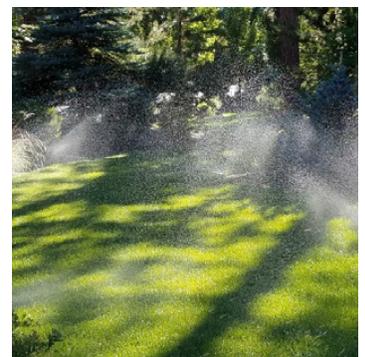
The process of spring start-ups is one of the most crucial parts of staying on track for the season. A beautiful summer landscape is made in the spring. Providing plants with adequate water, food and room to stretch their roots in the beginning of the season will help them cope with the stress of Central Oregon summers. When we look back at water use comparisons in fall we can see where the gaps of the spring left someone over-watering all summer trying to catch up. A majority of the time those gaps are seen as brown spots in the turf, due to some inadequacies in the sprinklers system's coverage. Sprinkler systems are dynamic, due to conditions in the field (e.g. maintenance wear and tear, vandalism etc..) Performance can change from week to week. Proper amount and

timing of fertilization as well as aeration can also effect the performance of our summer landscapes. Generally cool season turf needs 3 to 5 lbs of nitrogen a year, older turf can thrive with less. Practicing a fall application of a slow release temperature activated formula can carry nutrients through winter and be available to the turf grass in the spring. Slow release formulas reduce the amount of green leaf flush and allows balanced root growth helping turf cope in the heat of summer.

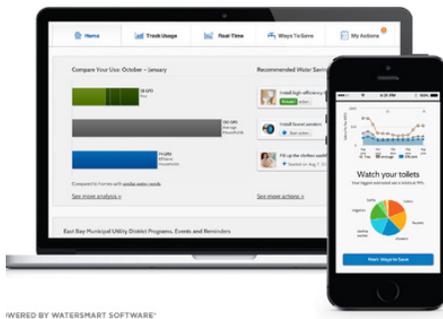
Stress to your crews and customers the importance of checking and making adjustments as often as possible help keep the system running efficiently, before turning up runtimes or adding Smart timers and equipment. The essential start up procedures are generally easy and a great time bundle necessary fixes

or recommended improvements into a water saving bid for your customer. Creating a water budget for the site during start up inspections can identify potential savings which can help sell the water saving recommendations.

Need help making a water budget? We have a free tool that can help you make a budget, create a schedule and track water use. Contact the WaterWise Program to get yours. Email: conservation@bendoregon.gov Phone: 541 317 3000 ext. 2



Water Smart: Ask your customers to sign up...



What they'll get as City of Bend (COB) customers:

- Access to water use information on pc or mobile
- How their water use compares to similar homes
- Alerts of constant water use or leaks

Three simple steps to start saving:

- Log on at www.bendoregon.watersmart.com
- Register using COB Utility account number
- Answer simple profile survey
- Give landscaper access to monitor usage

WaterWise Workshop Series

Join the OSU Master Gardeners™, OSU Extension Service and City of Bend WaterWise Program for a June workshop series dedicated to water-wise landscape and irrigation. This interactive workshop series will cover water conscious landscapes for Central Oregon, irrigation system maintenance and scheduling, maintaining water efficient lawn, and how to address street side landscaping. Workshops are free. Registration is not required.

What: OSU Master Gardeners / COB Water-wise Workshop Series

When: June 12th, 20th, 21st & 28th @ 6pm-8pm

Where: Hollinshead Park Barn (1237 NE Jones Road, Bend OR, 97701)

JUNE 12: OSU EXTENSION SERVICE - WATER-WISE GARDENING IN CENTRAL OREGON

Learn the steps needed to have a successful water-wise garden. Speaker will discuss the basics of plant selection, irrigation, soils, and planning and design. She will also present waterwise plants for use in your Central Oregon landscape.

JUNE 20: CITY OF BEND WATERWISE PROGRAM - BEND WATERWISE IRRIGATION GUIDE

Learn the basics of owning, maintaining and repairing a landscape irrigation system in Bend. In this high level introduction to irrigation systems, attendees will learn about basic irrigation system components, routine maintenance requirements, and how to make simple repair

JUNE 21: CITY OF BEND WATERWISE PROGRAM - BEND WATERWISE LAWN CARE

This interactive workshop provides attendees with an understanding of what it takes to maintain a healthy lawn in Central Oregon. Topics covered include mowing, fertilizing, aeration and dethatching, and special attention to irrigation and water management in the lawn.

JUNE 28: CITY OF BEND WATERWISE PROGRAM - BEND WATERWISE STREETScape GUIDE

Street side landscapes are prone to irrigation overspray and runoff. This workshop dives into the challenges and opportunities of updating these areas with a more water efficient Water-Wise Streetscape that will keep water off the street and be beautiful at the same time.

In the News

SAY WHAT?

Be aware Chp 12 revisions- The engineering specs for private development in the City of Bend received some long awaited changes. In an effort to recognize landscapes for the valuable asset they are, changes in the engineering spec foster keeping water off the street, investing in cultural practices and specifying efficient components for water wise landscapes. To review the revised Chp.12 changes go to the city's website <https://www.bendoregon.gov/home/showdocument?id=34141>.

Follow the continued discussion on House Bills 3337, 2206 and Senate Bill 474, these bills will effect the licensure requirements and educational requirements for landscape contractors in Oregon. To follow go to <https://olis.leg.state.or.us> and enter the bill number.



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Accommodation Information for People with Disabilities

To obtain this information in an alternate format such as Braille, large print, electronic formats, etc. please contact Utility Staff at: Utilities@bendoregon.gov or 541-317-3000 ext 2; Relay Users Dial 7-1-1, and fax: 541-317-3046